FALMOUTH & TRURO
PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

1973

FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. B. F. SMALES

VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Mr. T. W. R. CHRISTOPHERS

MEMBERS:

Borough of Falmouth:	G. V. Davey
	J. L. Jones
	J. A. Powdrill
	S. Robinson
	B. F. Smales
	Mrs. F. I. Wood
City of Truro:	A. D. Barber
	E. T. Carlyon
	T. W. R. Christophers
	R. J. Williams
Borough of Penryn:	M. Tallack
Rural District of Truro:	M. A. Chester
	Mrs. K. Dale
	E. L. C. Bebbington
Rural District of Kerrier:	Mrs. C. E. Thomas
	A. E. Freeman

FALMOUTH AND TRURO PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

To the Chairman and Members of the
Falmouth and Truro Port Health Authority

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ended December 31st, 1973.

The report is prepared in accordance with the directions in Port Form 20 from the department of Health and Social Security.

The routine work has been carried out quietly and efficiently by the Port Health Inspector. The hiring of water borne transport from the Falmouth Boatmen has been satisfactory.

It is with pleasure that I thank the Superintendent of H.M. Customs and his staff, the local Officers of H.M. Coastguard, the Pilots, H.M.Immigration Officers, the Dock and Harbourmasters, the staff of the Public Health Laboratory at Truro, the local Shipping Agents and the Boatmen who transported us to ships requiring Medical Aid, often at night and sometimes in bad weather.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Port Health Authority for their interest and sympathetic consideration of matters affecting the Administration.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. R. T. DEVLIN,

Port Medical Officer.

SECTION I

STAFF

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
D. Hall	Clerk	21st February, 1952	–	Town Clerk, Falmouth
J. Odgers	Treasurer	1st April, 1964	–	Manager, Lloyds Bank, Falmouth
H.R.T. Devlin	Port Medical Officer of Health	1st July, 1966	M.B., B.Ch.	–
J.F.H. Deeble	Deputy Port Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1966	M.B., B.S.Lond., D.R.C.O.G.	–
D.G. Rye	Port Health Inspector	29th July, 1968	M.A.P.H.I., Dip.P.H.I.E.B.	–
Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health			42 Church Street, Falmouth Tel. Falmouth 312143	
Home Address and telephone number of the Port Health Inspector			15 Ashfield Villas, Dracaena Avenue, Falmouth – Tel. Falmouth 313423	

SECTION II

AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

TABLE B

Ships from	Total number of arrivals exc. C/W yachts	Net tonnage	Number of vessels included in totals			Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had, infectious disease on board
			Commercial vessels	Fishing vessels	Yachts from Foreign	By MOH	By PHI	
Foreign Ports	579	1,192,501	227	21	331	–	176	NIL
British Ports	693	1,040,348	684	9	*	–	411	NIL
TOTAL	1,272	2,232,849	911	30	331	–	587	NIL

* Actual figures not recorded but probably about 1,500 coastwise yachts arrived in the port.

SECTION III

CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR, 1973

The Port of Falmouth consists of a large natural harbour and is used extensively as a port of refuge for shelter, bunkering and changing personnel as well as for receiving medical aid. In addition, it has a compact, well equipped ship repair yard. The amount of import and export carried out through the port is almost nil, the majority of vessels arriving in ballast or with cargoes consigned for discharge at other ports. The port continues to be much used by Yachtsmen arriving from most parts of the world. There has been, during the year, a considerable increase in the number of local fishing vessels using the port.

The Port of Truro now consists of three small wharfs and deep water moorings which are used for "lay-up" berths. There are very large oyster beds throughout the Port of Truro.

The Port of Penryn is now used commercially, only for the discharge of a few cargoes of coal during the year.

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	Number of Passengers Inwards	1,834
	Number of Passengers Outwards	498

Cargo Traffic — Principal Imports —

Timber from Baltic Ports, Fertilizer from the Netherlands, north France and Eire as well as Coal and Petroleum products from other British ports.

Cargo Traffic — Principal Exports —

Explosives mainly transhipped for the Middle and Far East and stone from local quarries shipped to other British ports. Small items of machinery and ship stores, equipment and spares are also loaded for export.

THE PRINCIPAL FOREIGN PORTS from which vessels arrive are:

Amsterdam, Antwerp, Bilbao, Brest, Cherbourg, Copenhagen, Hamburg,

Hamina, Le Havre, La Corunna, Rotterdam, St. Malo, Stettin, Wilhemshaven. About 75% of the yachts arriving from foreign ports arrived from the north-west French Ports (such as Audierne, Brest, Camaret, L'Abervrach, Morlaix, Perros-Guirec, Roscoff and St. Malo) but a significant number arrived from the Azores, U.S.A., and Spanish Ports.

The commercial and fishing vessels arriving from foreign ports have been divided as follows:

Vessels arrived from	Number of arrivals
AFRICA (N and W)	3
AMERICA (S)	4
BELGIUM	18
CANADA	4
DENMARK	6
FINLAND	17
FRANCE	58
GERMANY (W)	17
ITALY	2
MIDDLE EAST	3
NETHERLANDS	34
NORWAY	4
POLAND	13
SPAIN	15
SWEDEN	12
U.S.A.	9
U.S.S.R.	7

SECTION IV

INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no Barge traffic in the Port.

SECTION V

WATER SUPPLIES

Source of Supply

The district surrounding the Port Health Authority area is supplied with mains water by the South Cornwall Water Board, water being collected from a

number of sources, adequately treated and then suitably distributed.

As far as shipping is concerned, drinking water can be taken at any berth at Falmouth Docks or from Falmouth Town Quay, Coastlines Wharf, Penryn Town Quay, Malpas Oil Depot, Mylor Harbour and Harvey's Timber Wharf at Truro. All of which are mains supplies. Drinking water can also be taken at Truro's Lighterage Quay from the water tanker belonging to the Cornwall County Council Fire Brigade.

Reports of Tests for Contamination

During the year a total of 55 samples of drinking water have been taken as shown below and have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories at Truro for bacteriological examination.

DISTRICT	Samples taken	Results	
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
Dock Hydrants	10	–	10
Other Wharfs, etc.	1	–	1
TOTALS	11	–	11

SHIPPING	No. of Ships Involved	No. of Samples Taken	Results	
			Unsatis.	Satis.
Distribution aboard ship)	21	35	2	33
Storage aboard ship)		5	–	5
TOTAL	21	40	2	38

Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes

All hydrants and hosepipes used for supplying drinking water are covered when not in use and are well flushed out before supplying.

Waterboats

The South Cornwall Water Board provide and maintain the waterboat "CELIA B"

which is operated from Falmouth Harbour, supplying, as required, the whole of the Port of Falmouth and the vessels laid up in the River Fal (Port of Truro). Two of the local Falmouth harbour tugs undertake the duties of the waterboat at any time when "Celia B" is unable to supply drinking water afloat.

WATERBOAT	No. of samples taken	Results	
		Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory
Celia B	—	—	—
Tugs acting as Waterboat	4	—	4
TOTALS	4	—	4

The water boats are maintained at a satisfactory standard and though the Port Health Authority has no direct powers of control over the craft, routine sampling is undertaken as necessary.

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1970

List of Infected Areas (Regulation 6)

Lists of the infected ports throughout the world are prepared from the World Health Organisation's weekly Epidemiological Record. These are drawn up in three columns showing the countries in alphabetical order followed by the names of the infected ports and in the third column the quarantineable disease. These lists are circularised to the Pilots, H.M. Waterguard, H.M, Immigration Officers, H.M. Coastguard as well as the Shipping Agents.

The lists are revised as required and remain in force until a new list is prepared.

Radio Messages

The Port is not a Radio transmitting port. The Port is designated as a Radio Receiving Port for the purposes of Quarantine Control. Radio messages from Masters of vessels are received via Lands End, Portishead or Niton to Port Health, Falmouth. After office hours these messages come directly to the Port

Medical Officers at their homes. When boarding, the Port Health Inspector now carries a small radio receiver/transmitter and therefore has direct contact with the majority of vessels arriving in the port.

Notification Otherwise than by Radio (Regulation 14(1)(b))

The signal ZW (I require the Port Medical Officer) flown at the mast head or flashed by lamp indicates that the ship has on board, or has had on board within the last four weeks a case or suspected case of **Infectious Disease** or that there are other circumstances requiring the attention of the Medical Officer.

Mooring Stations (Regulations 22-30)

Falmouth Bay and Carrick Roads, and for small vessels St. Just Pool.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases (other than Smallpox)

Royal Cornwall Hospital (Treliske) — TRURO 4242
Royal Cornwall Hospital (City) — TRURO 3081

Surveillance and Follow Up of Contacts

Notices are sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the districts concerned when contacts leave the area. Contacts remaining within the Port Health Authority's area are under the supervision of the Porth Health Authority's Medical staff during the period of surveillance.

Cleansing and Disinfection of Ships, Persons, Clothing and Other Articles

Arrangements for disinfection of ships quarters which have been occupied by cases of infectious diseases are made by the Port Health Inspector. Clothing and other articles are disinfected by arrangement with the County Health authority or the West Cornwall Hospital Management Committee.

SECTION VII

SMALLPOX

Smallpox cases are sent to either of the following hospitals, Scott Hospital, Plymouth, Tel: 51437 or Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Tel: 42385.

The ambulance service of the Cornwall County Council would make arrange-

ments for the transport of all cases or suspected cases. The vaccination state of the Ambulance crews is reviewed and kept up to date.

The Smallpox consultant is Dr. W. H. St. John Brooks, West Cornwall Hospital, Tel: Penzance (0736)2383 — Home - Penzance (0736)752439.

Specimens for Laboratory Diagnosis are forwarded to: Public Health Laboratory, Myrtle Road, Kindsdown, Bristol BS2 8EL. Tel: Bristol (0272)38257.

SECTION VIII

VENEREAL DISEASE

Cases of Venereal Disease are referred to the Special Treatment Clinics at Falmouth or Truro. In the case of urgency, arrangements can always be made to have treatment the same day by making a telephone appointment with the Consultant who has kindly offered this service.

Clinics are as follows: Falmouth — Saturday mornings 10.00 hrs.
Truro — Wednesday afternoon 13.00 hrs.

These facilities are made known to seamen by the Port Health Inspector or at the Shipping Federation where the Medical Officers will make arrangements for treatment.

	1971	1972	1973
Syphilis	1	—	2
Gonorrhoea	3	6	1
Herpes (Genital)	2	—	—
Venereal Warts	3	—	—
N.S.U.	7	8	4
Lymphogranuloma Inguinale	—	—	1
Miscellaneous	6	5	13

SECTION IX

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTION DISEASE ON SHIPS

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during the year		No. of Ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports	Leprosy	—	1	1
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	—	—	—	—
Cases landed from other ships	—	—	—	—

SECTION X

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

There were no cases of Malaria.

SECTION XI

MEASURES TAKN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No infected or suspected ships arrived during the year.

SECTION XII

MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

All vessels boarded by the Port Health Inspector are also examined for any evidence of rodent activity and if discovered is promptly treated in co-operation with the owners and agents.

Bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents can be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Truro, but during this year no speciments have been submitted for examination.

Two local firms are equipped to undertake trapping or poisoning on board ship:

Shipping Services Ltd., (Rentokil Agents)
Wood Decay Treatment (Penryn) Ltd., (Bayer/Baywood Agents)

in addition work has been undertaken during the year by outside firms such as:

Rentokil Laboratories, Ltd.

who will also undertake fumigation with Hydrogen Cyanide or Methyl Bromide gas.

Regular examination of the local quays and wharfs and their surrounding areas is undertaken by the Port Health Inspector and any evidence of rodent activity would be promptly notified to the owners and the Local Authority for treatment — during the year no such evidence has been discovered.

No additional rat proofing was required on any vessel in the port during this last year.

TABLE E

Rodents Destroyed During the Year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	Nil
Brown Rats	Nil
Species not known	Nil
Sent for examination	Nil
Infected with Plague	Nil

TABLE F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued During the Year for Ships from Foreign Ports

Number of Deratting Certificates issued after Fumigation				Total	Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)	After Trapping	After Poison			
—	—	—	—	—	* 47	* 47

*This includes 3 certificates issued by the Falmouth and Truro Port Health Authority at Penzance by agreement with the Penzance (Penzance Division) Port Health Authority.

In 12 other cases the Deratting Exemption Certificates were extended for up to one month to enable the vessel concerned to reach port and discharge the cargo.

SECTION XIII

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

Inspection and Notice

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Results of Serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
General Inspections	587	—	) 27	) 23 remedied
Re-visits	493	—	)	)
TOTAL	1,080	—	27	23 remedied

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934, 1955

These Regulations refer to the gathering and sale for human consumption of shell fish which may be infected.

There are many acres of layings within the Port Health Authority's area in the Penryn River, River Fal, Porthcuil River, Carrick Road and Helford River.

No prohibited area has been prescribed.

All shell fish in the area are liable to pollution and before they are sold for human consumption they are cleansed in tanks in which the water is sterilised by ultra-violet radiation or chlorination, aerated by cascade and re-circulated by pump. These tanks are situated at Helford, Flushing, Truro and Mylor.

Numbers of these oysters are submitted by local authorities to the Public Health Laboratory at Truro where the efficiency of cleansing is gauged by standard laboratory tests under the direction of Dr. G. I. Barrow.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS AND COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

Medical Inspector of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants holding Certificate of Appointment:

Dr. H. R. T. Devlin, Port Medical Officer of Health.

Other Staff: None.

Organisation of Work:

The Port Medical Officer is notified by the Immigration Officer of the arrival of Aliens or Commonwealth Immigrants who may require examination and these are examined on board.

Nature and Amount of Aliens and Commonwealth Immigrants Traffic

The majority of Alien and Commonweath Immigrant Traffic are either Ships Crews or Yachting Visitors.

Number of Conditional entries of Commonwealth Immigrants

Number of arrivals	Number Medically examined	Number landed conditionally
37	—	37

Accommodation for Medical Inspection and Examination

It has not been thought necessary to make any special arrangements for accommodation for Medical Inspection or Examination ashore.

Total number of aliens arriving — 673.

SECTION XVI

MISCELLANEOUS

Arrangements for the Burial on Shore of Persons who have Died from Infectious Diseases

Dead bodies of persons who have died onboard ship from infectious disease would be removed and conveyed to a mortuary by arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health, whence they would be buried.

Visits to ships requesting Medical Aid in Falmouth Bay or while anchored in Carrick Road

11. 1.73 DAGHESTAN — 1st Officer with Cerebral Ischaemia — to hospital
22. 1.73 SWANSEA — Crew member — injury to foot — to hospital
10. 2.73 JAENINE ANDREE — Crew member with fractured leg — to hospital
23. 2.73 RILLE TRIGON — Female crew member with pelvic pain — to hospital
22. 2.73 SWIDER — Crew member with hip injury — to hospital
24. 2.73 SWIDER — Crew member with Epistaxis — to hospital

14.	4.73	KAVO ARKITIS – Crew members vaccinated
5.	5.73	SECONDA – Crew member with Haematemesis – to hospital
29.	5.73	DROXFORD – Crew member with Acute Abdomen – to hospital
2.	6.73	ROBROY II – Crew member with possible Acute Appendicitis – to hospital
1.	7.73	LEUPA – 1st Officer with chest pain – to hospital
3.	7.73	NORMANDIET – The Captain with chest pain – to hospital
13.	7.73	GREEN PARK – Crew member with traumatic amputation finger-tip – to hospital
1.	8.73	BRITISH CONFIDENCE – Crew member with lacerated wrists – to hospital
10.	8.73	ALBERMAIN CLIPPER – Crew member Acute Vertigo – to hospital
11.	8.73	LONDON INDEPENDENCE – Crew member with Leprosy – to hospital
14.	8.73	SACHEM – Crew member with lacerated finger – sutured
14.	9.73	MARINE ELECTRICIAN – Crew member with Coronary Thrombosis – to hospital
22.	9.73	MARYA – Crew member with injury to face – to hospital
25.	9.73	PINTA CRUCIES – Crew member with painful back – examined
18.	10.73	TASMANIAN STAR – Crew member with Haematemesis – to hospital
23.	12.73	MERCHAND TRADER – 1st Officer fractured leg – to hospital
24.	12.73	MARIE D – The Captain – vomiting – to hospital

Total 23 (1971 – 21) (1972 – 26)

Return of Cases of Sickness and Injury found among Seamen reporting Ashore

	1970	1971	1972	1973
Scabies	6	4	6	7
Pediculosis	1	1	1	–
Jaundice	1	–	1	1
Colds and Bronchitis	52	45	25	29
Stomach Disorders	36	28	36	35
Ear, Nose and Throat	37	20	38	29
Diabetes	2	4	–	5
Influenza	6	–	–	3
Dental Conditions	9	9	4	4
Musculo Skeletal Pain	37	33	29	35
Skin Diseases and Infections	56	23	30	46
Various Injuries	73	74	48	45
Miscellaneous	102	178	128	153
Herpes (Zoster)	5	1	4	–
Mumps	1	–	–	–
Cases referred to V.D. Clinic	–	–	25	17
Eye Conditions	–	–	6	15
TOTALS	449	420	411	424

Numbers of Seamen arriving by Air and other means to join ships – 530

Numbers of Seamen paid off at Falmouth – 211

REPORT OF THE PORT HEALTH INSPECTOR

As this is not required by Port Form 20, on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, this is now not included in this report.

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